

What is claimed is:

1           1.    A method comprising:  
2           prompting a first user at a UNIX-based machine for  
3           permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located  
4           from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine;  
5           and  
6           if the first user grants permission, enabling the second  
7           user to use the UNIX-based machine through the machine  
8           remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 in which the prompting  
2           comprises making the prompt known to the first user by  
3           displaying information on a display of the UNIX-based machine.

1           3.    The method of claim 1 in which the second user uses  
2           the UNIX-based machine through the machine remotely-located  
3           from the UNIX-based machine as if the second user was directly  
4           using the UNIX-based machine.

1           4.    The method of claim 1 further comprising, before the  
2           prompting, replicating current contents of a screen on the  
3           UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in a background  
4           of the UNIX-based machine.

1           5.    The method of claim 2 further comprising adding to  
2    the new screen a prompt that asks the first user for the  
3    permission.

1           6.    The method of claim 2 further comprising replacing  
2    the current contents of the screen on the UNIX-based machine  
3    with the new screen.

1           7.    The method of claim 1 in which the using of the  
2    UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the  
3    UNIX-based machine from the machine remotely-located from the  
4    UNIX-based machine.

1           8.    The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the  
2    first user does not grant permission, preventing the second  
3    user from using the UNIX-based machine through the machine  
4    remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1           9.    The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the  
2    first user at the UNIX-based machine does not respond to the  
3    prompting within a certain threshold time, enabling by default  
4    the second user to use the UNIX-based machine.

1           10.   The method of claim 1 in which the prompting is  
2    text-based.

1 11. An article comprising:

2 a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable  
3 instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

4 prompt a first user at a UNIX-based machine for  
5 permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located  
6 from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine;  
7 and

8 if the first user grants permission, enable the  
9 second user to use the UNIX-based machine through the machine  
10 remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1 12. The article of claim 11 in which the prompting  
2 includes making the prompt known to the first user by  
3 displaying information on a display of the UNIX-based machine.

1 13. The article of claim 11 in which the second user  
2 uses the UNIX-based machine through the machine  
3 remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine as if the second  
4 user was directly using the UNIX-based machine.

1 14. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine  
2 to, before the prompting, replicate current contents of a  
3 screen on the UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in  
4 a background of the UNIX-based machine.

1           15. The article of claim 14 further causing a machine to  
2 add to the new screen a prompt that asks the first user for  
3 the permission.

1           16. The method of claim 14 further causing a machine to  
2 replace the current contents of the screen on the UNIX-based  
3 machine with the new screen.

1           17. The article of claim 11 in which the using of the  
2 UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the  
3 UNIX-based machine from the machine remotely-located from the  
4 UNIX-based machine.

1           18. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine  
2 to, if the first user does not grant permission, prevent the  
3 second user from using the UNIX-based machine through the  
4 machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1           19. The article of claim 11 further causing a machine  
2 to, if the first user at the UNIX-based machine does not  
3 respond to the prompting within a certain threshold time,  
4 enable by default the second user to use the UNIX-based  
5 machine.

1           20. The article of claim 11 in which the prompting is  
2 text-based.

1           21. A system comprising:

2           a first device configured to run UNIX; and

3           a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured  
4           to run a process on the first device transparently to a user  
5           of the first device, the process configured to prompt the user  
6           of the first device for permission for a remote user at a  
7           second device at a location remote from the first device to  
8           input instructions to the first device from the second device.

1           22. The system of claim 21 in which the process is also  
2           configured to, if the user of the first device grants  
3           permission, enable the remote user to use the first device  
4           through the second device as if the remote user was directly  
5           using the first device.

1           23. The system of claim 21 further comprising a second  
2           mechanism accessible by the second device and configured to  
3           notify the first device when the remote user desires to input  
4           instructions to the first device from the second device.

1           24. The system of claim 21 in which the process is also  
2           configured to continuously runs on the first device.

1           25. A method comprising:

2           replicating current contents of a display screen visible  
3           to a user on a UNIX-based device onto a new screen not visible

on the display screen to the user;

inserting a prompt on the new screen to a user of the UNIX-based device to grant permission for a remote device at a location remote from the UNIX-based device to control the UNIX-based device; and

replacing the current contents of the display screen with the new screen, the new screen visible to the user on the UNIX-based device.

26. The method of claim 25 further comprising, after the user responds to the prompt, returning the UNIX-based device back to the current contents of the display screen.

27. A method comprising:

replicating current contents of a screen on a UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in a background of the UNIX-based machine;

adding to the new screen a text prompt prompting a first user at the UNIX-based machine for permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine; and

replacing the current contents of the screen with the new screen.

28. The method of claim 27 further comprising determining if the second user may control the UNIX-based

3 machine based on a response to the text prompt by the first  
4 user.

1 29. A method comprising:  
2 requesting at a machine to remotely control a UNIX-based  
3 machine at a location remote from the machine; and  
4 determining whether the machine may remotely control the  
5 UNIX-based machine based on a response from the UNIX-based  
6 machine.

1 30. The method of claim 29 in which remotely controlling  
2 the UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the  
3 UNIX-based machine from the machine.